

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2076

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, XI

SUBJ: MFA COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: MOSCOW 11157

BEIRUT POUCH TO USINT BAGHDAD

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF MEETING (REFTTEL) WITH PYRLIN, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA NEAR EAST DIVISION SEPTEMBER 14, HE OFFERED VIEWS ON SEVERAL MID EAST MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. PALESTINIANS AND ME SETTLEMENT: PYRLIN SAID IDEA OF PALESTINIAN STATE AS AN ELEMENT IN A ME SETTLEMENT IS DIFFICULT MATTER, ON WHICH THERE IS NO CONSENSUS
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AMONG ARAB STATES AND PALESTINIANS. THE WHOLE

CONCEPT IS EXTREMELY VAGUE, AND STATEMENTS ABOUT IDEA ARE REplete WITH CONTRADICTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, ZAYAT HAD MADE HIS STATEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AND DENIED IT NEXT DAY. PROBLEM OF DEFINING "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS" IS NO EASIER, AND AMONG THE PARTIES INVOLVED THERE IS NO MEETING OF MINDS. PYRLIN IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD NO REAL SUCCESS IN GETTING CONSENSUS AMONG

THE VARIOUS PALESTINIAN AND ARAB ELEMENTS ON EITHER SUBJECT.

3. USSR-EGYPT RELATIONS: PYRLIN SAID RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ARE GOOD, WITH NO SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE ISMAIL VISIT IN JULY, PYRLIN SAID BREZHNEV HAD MET WITH ISMAIL TO REVIEW THE NIXON-BREZHNEV SUMMIT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ME. PYRLIN SAID BREZHNEV HAD PROVIDED ISMAIL WITH EXPLANATION OF WHAT SOVIETS HAD SAID AND HAD REPORTED ON POSITIONS SET FORTH BY PRESIDENT NIXON. LATER VISIT TO MOSCOW BY EGYPTIAN FINANCE MINISTER HAD RESULTED IN AGREEMENTS ON REFINANCING OF EGYPTIAN DEBTS TO USSR ON TERMS ALLOWING EGYPT LONGER PERIOD FOR REPAYMENT AND LONGER GRACE PERIODS IN MEETING SOME OBLIGATIONS.

4. WALDHEIM TOUR: PYRLIN SAID HE FELT WALDHEIM HAD SOUGHT THROUGHOUT HIS TOUR TO MAKE STATEMENTS CONSISTENT WITH POLICIES OF THE STATES HE VISITED. HE INTIMATED THAT WALDHEIM MAY BE SPREADING HIMSELF TOO THIN IN TRYING TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN EACH AREA OF THE WORLD IN WHICH THERE ARE SERIOUS TROUBLES. PYRLIN SAID THAT ONE POSITIVE RESULT OF TOUR WAS FACT THAT SYRIAN GOVERNMENT RECEIVED WALDHEIM PYRLIN WAS IN DAMASCUS AT THE TIME), AND ADDED THAT THIS MAY INDICATE STEP TOWARD SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF UN SC 242.

5. UNGA ON ME: PYRLIN SAID THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON THE MID EAST. HE BELIEVES IT WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS,
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PROBABLY IN EARLY OR MID-NOVEMBER; HE WILL GO TO NEW YORK FOR THE DEBATE.

6. HUSSEIN'S CAIRO MEETINGS: PYRLIN SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT EGYPT WAS LOOKING FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH EASTERN NEIGHBORS IN ORDER TO DRAW CLOSER TO SAUDI ARABIA AND PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO DEPENDENCE ON LIBYA. HE SAID ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION QADHAFFI HAD OPPOSED THE MEETING.

7. USSR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER ME STATES:

PYRLIN SAID SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED LEBANESE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING BETTER RELATIONS. HE BELIEVES THIS IS PROBABLY RESPONSE TO LEBANESE PROBLEMS WITH PALESTINIANS. RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN ARE GOOD. SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, IN ITS RELATIONS WITH SUDAN WHERE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI CONTINUES TO BELIEVE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS IMPLICATED IN 1971 ATTEMPTED COUP. PYRLIN SAID NUMAYRI'S BELIEF TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED, BUT IS AN OBSTACLE TO BETTER RELATIONS. SIMILARLY PYRLIN SAID THE SOVIETS HAVE COMPLICATIONS IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES. SOVIET UNION WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THESE STATES, BUT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL PROGRESS. ON IRAQ PYRLIN DEPICTED RELATIONS AS GOOD, BUT HE CONCEDED SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS ITS DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT MANY PROBLEMS STEM FROM IRAQI-IRANIAN RIVALRY AND FROM SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IRAN. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, PYRLIN'S COMMENTS TENDED TO CONFIRM VIEW THAT BAGHDAD DID NOT WELCOME RECENT HOVEYDA VISIT TO USSR.

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